



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 22**

27 September 2015



Dear Friend

An accident in March that part-paralysed my hands, would have brought these newsletters to an end, but for the kind intervention of RCS member Sarah Anderson, who has volunteered to handle distribution, by post and e-mail. So, on her behalf and mine, thank you for your continued support for the Society. Among the Friends are many current and past RCS members, not all of whom can access e-mail and the informative website, managed by Mary Burslem. For their benefit, I will still list future concerts and Sarah will continue to send some newsletters by surface mail. If you prefer not to receive them electronically, please let one of us know.

Since Scott Farrell became our Director of Music, we have been receiving excellent reports on the standard and variety of our concerts and it is very largely due to him that we have also been able to balance our budget. Thanks to that and your support, we are holding the subscriptions of members and Friends unchanged for another year.

That reminds me that Annual Friends' subs are due from 1st October, so I've added a little reminder about the rates and benefits on the next page. Prompt payment is always appreciated (but to the Treasurer, please, not to me)!

Much good came from the Society's AGM/rehearsal on 22 September. In reporting favourably on the year's work, Scott announced that our future Cathedral bookings are protected for as long as we stick to the chosen dates. This will please many people and, under his direction, we should be able to support the cost. Our energetic Chairman, Kendall Harding, is still working hard with Medway Council to establish our reputation as a cultural asset to the Medway Towns. You will note from the details overleaf that our next concert, on 14 November, will be held jointly with the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra. We are all working hard on our part of the Beethoven Choral Symphony as well as the lovely Brahms Song of Destiny. You may remember me saying that we first sang it in 1885, when Brahms was only 52.

Please do your best to support this concert and, thereby, the singers, instrumentalists and Cathedral team involved.

Kendall paid tribute to her hard-working Committee and its associate members, all of whom undertake specific tasks for the Society. She welcomed Assistant Sub-Organist Benjamin Bloor as our new Accompanist. The only downside was her announcement that our Hon Secretary, Paul Simpson, has retired, after long and faithful service. He will be hard to replace.

With best wishes from Sarah and me,

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm

Malcolm Moulton, Friends' Secretary

Mozart, Brahms and Beethoven Concert

Saturday 14th November 2015, 7.30 pm Rochester Cathedral. **Please note different starting time, for this concert only.**

Mozart: Don Giovanni Overture
Brahms: Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9

Emily Garland, Soprano
Katherine Aitken, Mezzo-Soprano
John Porter, Tenor
Michael Mofidian, Bass

With the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Peter Bassano

Tickets: £20 (reserved seating - nave), £10 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £1 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the nave seats (please contact Rosemary direct for Friends tickets).

Buy your tickets online!

Please contact Rosemary Clemence - email: tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk  or telephone: 01634 401049 - for tickets.

Spring Concert

Saturday 12th March 2016, 7 pm *Rochester Cathedral*

Rutter: Requiem
Pärt: The Beatitudes
Janáček: Otče Náš
Bernstein: Chichester Psalms

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Friends Annual Subscriptions, benefits and payment

'Solo Friend': £30 for a year (life membership £300).

'Duet Friends': £50 per couple (life membership £450).

As a Friend, you receive:

- £5 off your front-nave seat or £3 off any other*.
- A free programme at each concert
- Newsletters, in the form of pre-concert mailings and
- An opportunity to socialise at our concerts.

Some fixed-price concerts (eg Christmas) are not included

The Treasurer is Chris Clemence, 246 City Way, Rochester ME1 2BN

tel: 01634 401049 ... e-mail: chrisclarence.cc@gmail.com

He will be happy to receive cash or cheque payments.

To pay on-line (for those with on-line banking), please pay to

Name: Rochester Choral Society

Sort code: 40-39-02

Account n^o: 21028936

And let Chris know by e-mail. (Please note the new address above)

**Please make all payments directly to Chris, (not to me).
Thank you.**